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OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES ON A SYSTEM-WIDE BASIS: STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM AND THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS IN THE AREAS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING THE FIELD LEVEL

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/120 of 20 December 1995, on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/50, in which the Council decided to place the subject on the agenda of its 1996 substantive session,

Reaffirming the goals contained in section VIII of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, concerning the relationship between the United Nations and international finance and trade institutions, and General Assembly resolutions 50/91 and 50/92 of 20 December 1995, dealing, respectively, with challenges and opportunities of global financial integration and enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Taking into account the ongoing deliberations on an agenda for development, in which issues relating to the strengthening of the relationship between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions are being addressed,

Considering that the broad mandate of the United Nations development system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and its expertise in dealing in an integrated manner with economic and development issues, globalization and interdependence provide a good basis for strengthening further cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions,

Recognizing that strengthening the collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions at the intergovernmental, intersecretariat and country levels, as complementary to and support for the existing United Nations mechanism, is particularly important for effectively promoting international cooperation for development,

Also recognizing that the significant number of practical examples of such collaboration is an encouraging sign of the efforts already undertaken and of the existing potentialities for further increasing such collaboration,

Recognizing further the importance of joint initiatives between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in coordinating efforts for the implementation and follow-up of the commitments of the major United Nations international conferences and summits,

Reaffirming that United Nations development assistance should continue to maintain its characteristics of neutrality and non-conditionality and that the recipient Government should play a leading role for the overall coordination of collaboration at the country level,

Deeply concerned about the significant decline in resources allocated to the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, the incomplete tenth replenishment of the International Development Association and prospects for the eleventh replenishment at significantly reduced real levels, which has a negative impact on the effectiveness of the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in pursuing collaboration and their role in the field of development,

1. Takes note of the report by the Secretariat on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions 1/ in the areas of social and economic development at all levels, including the field level;

2. Considers that the strengthening of collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions requires a comprehensive approach, encompassing a closer policy dialogue at the intergovernmental level on global macroeconomic policy issues and new initiatives and measures at the country level;

1/ E/1996/72 and Corr.1.

3. Also considers that such a policy dialogue will be an important element in promoting coherence, while encouraging a plurality of analyses and views, on issues related to sustained economic growth and sustainable development, improving, therefore, the overall framework for cooperation between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions at all levels, including the field level;

4. Emphasizes that the dialogue at the country level should be undertaken under the overall guidance of the national Government;

5. Stresses that, in the collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions, the United Nations development system should continue to maintain its characteristics of neutrality and non-conditionality and that the recipient Government should play a leading role for the overall coordination of the collaboration at the country level;

6. Recognizes that concrete modalities for collaboration between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions at the country level should be on the basis of country-driven activities, arising from the needs of developing countries;

7. Further recognizes that any programmes or projects arising from such collaboration should be fully consistent with national plans and strategies;

8. Reaffirms the importance of an integrated approach so as to facilitate coordination between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in the implementation and follow-up of the commitments of major United Nations international conferences and summits;

9. Decides that full implementation of existing agreements, the strengthening of existing mechanisms and the establishment of formal agreements, where necessary, between the Bretton Woods institutions and other specialized agencies through, inter alia, memoranda of understanding, covering issues such as participation in relevant meetings, information-gathering, information exchange, research, policy analysis and operational activities, should be encouraged and undertaken within the framework provided by General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions;

10. Further decides to promote joint meetings of the Council and both the Development Committee of the World Bank/International Monetary Fund and the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund, aiming at strengthening the exchange of views between those bodies on development issues. Such meetings shall be scheduled at a time proximate to the semi-annual meetings of the Bretton Woods institutions, beginning in 1997, with a view to benefiting from high-level ministerial participation and the participation of heads of financial institutions and other relevant organizations. In that regard, the financial institutions and other relevant organizations should be invited, as and when appropriate, to prepare reports and studies to enhance the discussions. For that purpose, the Secretary-General will propose, in consultations with the heads of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to the Council at its 1997 organizational session, the issues, date and modalities for the first joint meeting;

11. Decides also to encourage cooperative working relations between the relevant units of the Bretton Woods institutions and the regional commissions, including, inter alia, joint research on the effects of opening regional economies, collaboration in the areas of industrialization and physical and economic infrastructure, and arrangements for data collection and information exchange;

12. Invites the Bretton Woods institutions to prepare special reports and studies for the Council and the General Assembly on issues falling within their competence, in accordance with article V of the Agreement between the United Nations and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund;

13. Invites the financial and trade institutions participating in the high-level segment of the Council in 1997 to furnish relevant special reports and studies on the selected theme, within their respective mandates and areas of expertise, and on important developments in the world economy and in international economic cooperation;

14. Also invites the Bretton Woods institutions to prepare special reports for the General Assembly at its fifty-first session on the issue of the multilateral external debt problem of the developing countries and on the issue of challenges and opportunities of global financial integration;

15. Invites further the heads of the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/227, to provide the General Assembly at its fifty-second session with a report and recommendations on how those institutions can improve their own efforts to support the effective implementation of development projects at the field level, taking into account the guidelines in paragraph 86 of that resolution.